



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF MISSION SUPPORT

Mr. Alexander Rony
MuckRock DEPT MR 42356
411 A Highland A venue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2017-010712

Dear Mr. Rony:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on August 22nd, 2017, in which you requested the Agency Reform Plan, progress report, and employee performance plan submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the subsequent administrative appeal.

The Office of Mission Support (formerly the Office of Administration and Resources Management) has reviewed your request and provided a partial grant. We determined that portions of the Near-Term Workforce Actions and the Plan to Maximize Employee Performance should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), which protects information that concerns communications within or between agencies that are protected by legal privileges, specifically the Deliberative Process Privilege. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Agency Reform Plan should be withheld in full pursuant to Exemption b5 as well. The records withheld under Exemption 5 fall under deliberative process because they are predecisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision making if released. You can access the responsive records through your FOIA OnLine account.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at hq.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the EPA's National FOIA Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2310A), Washington, DC 20460. Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue. If you are submitting your appeal by hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5315, Washington, DC 20001. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610

Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (202) 741-5769.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Kristina Sandfoss of my staff at 202-564-7177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan A Jablonski".

Jan Jablonski
Director, Administrative Operations Division
Office of Mission Support